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## AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA

**Die Sunda-Expedition des Vereins für Geographie und Statistik zu Frankfurt am Main.** Von Dr. Johannes Elbert. Festschrift zur Feier des 75 jährigen Bestehens des Vereins. Band I. xxv and 274 pp. Maps, ills. Hermann Minjon, Frankfurt am Main, 1911. Mks. 40. 12 x 9.

This Indonesian volume is a worthy offering in celebration of the third quarter century of the fourth in age of the world's great geographical societies, the next to the oldest in Germany. In this first volume Dr. Elbert deals with Lombok, Muna, Buton and the southeastern peninsula of Celebes. The last of these fields of survey comes with particular interest as supplementing the brilliant record which for the rest of Celebes we owe to the cousins Sarasin. Those able explorers were obliged to leave the field before they had ventured upon this peninsula; therefore we are grateful that the omission has been so promptly and so carefully supplied. The prime object in Dr. Elbert's work was vulcanography and geoplastics as dependent thereupon. But his observation was by no means restricted. We note the intelligent curiosity with which he has studied the cloud masses capping the higher mountains and feel sure that meteorologists will find much satisfaction in his explanation of the atmospheric physics of earth-generated air currents directed upward by mountain slopes. In ethnography he is similarly alert in the study of all the material which it was within his power to examine. In linguistics he has provided a small supply of material from Muna and promises later a vocabulary of 700 words. In the small material which he offers here we find the suggestion of a most important matter. We now regard the intermingling of the Malayan (more properly Indonesian) languages and the Polynesian, amounting at the outside to less than 150 vocabularies, as due to a persistence of early Polynesian ancestors in retired spots when the oncoming of the Indonesian parents was expelling the former inhabitants. In this Muna material we note that forms identifiable as Polynesian are far closer to the Proto-Samoan than the cognate forms in Malay or Buton. Muna is a small outlier of the southeastern Celebes peninsula; the corresponding outlier of the southwestern peninsula is Salayer, also exhibiting close similarities with the Proto-Samoan speech. In the next work of my series upon Polynesia I shall point out the fact that the honorific title of our American island of Tutuila in Samoa is "Le motu o Salaia," the island of Salaia, a term incomprehensible in Samoan, unrecognizable elsewhere save at this distant tip of Celebes.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse einer amtlichen Forschungsreise nach dem Bismarck-Archipel im Jahre 1908.** II: Beiträge zur Völker- und Sprachenkunde von Deutsch-Neuguinea. Von Dr. Georg Friederici. vi and 324 pp. Map, ills. *Mitt. aus den Deutschen Schutzgebieten*, Ergänzungsheft Nr. 5. Ernst S. Mittler & Sohn, Berlin, 1912.

This is one of the books rare in the experience of those whose lives are passed in the society of printed pages, one that a writer would feel proud to have written. It is not that the training of the German ethnologist is superior to the random methods and rarely inspired blundering of English and American practitioners of that science of the byways of the wild; it is not that Captain Friederici is an accurate observer, for there have been many accurate German explorers; it is his sympathy with the simple, his breadth of knowledge of the world and the men thereof, which give this volume a charm which enriches its great value.

The region studied is the western tip of Neupommern, over against New Guinea, especially the Barriai people. This is breaking new ground. Ages ago stands the brief discovery record of Dampier; there has been no second. Neither trader nor missionary has sought out this folk; when Friederici visited them they had undergone almost no contamination by the trickle of strange custom and foreign goods at second or third or later hand, each hand grasping and clutching and passing little onward. We feel a sense of security in following out this record. For one thing it is so complete; no least detail is omitted; there

is statement of each most intimate activity of the life of these savages; it is all set down, and the sum is not diminished by omission of any particulars which the subjects of the inquiry see no reason to hide from sight or to omit from speech. But of far more importance is it that the recorder does not pretend to understand all the things which he has observed; he does not assume to explain, it is enough for him to record. This is quite as it should be. The savage does not think as we do, the categories of his reasoning are scarcely associable with our logic; the longer the student has to do with such folk the less inclined he is to venture upon explanation of thought and conduct.

To cartography Captain Friederici has given accurate determinations of coast for considerable distances along the unknown north shore of Neupommern, and at the western limit of his activity he has filled in a large mass of detail for the interior of the island. His linguistic results are admirable. He gives at very satisfactory length a vocabulary of the Barriai and his grammatical discussion thereof is excellent of its type, although I must feel that the speech usage of Melanesians and Polynesians will yield more satisfactory results under a different and simpler treatment. This major vocabulary is supplemented by brief records of several languages with which he had less satisfactory opportunity of becoming acquainted.

The breadth of his view is excellently illustrated in the ethnographic employment of vocabulary material upon certain selected themes. He has devoted much care to the examination of the canoe and of the weapons of offence, the spear, the bow and arrow, the sling. In each case he carries the record from the western limit of Indonesia to the eastern ultimate of Polynesia, and the speech record is used to trace the path of migration. I may properly note that in the Barriai vocabulary I have been able to identify material of the so-called Malayo-Polynesian speech. It lies wholly within that small group of common vocables which I have sought to establish as Polynesian left behind by the brown race on its wanderings. Its occurrence in the Barriai, midway between Moanus and the similarly affected languages of southeast New Guinea, shows clearly that Dampier's Strait was an open highway to the Polynesian fleet.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

### ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

**Checking the Waste.** A Study in Conservation. By Mary Huston Gregory. 318 pp. Ills. Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis, 1911. \$1.25, 7½ x 5.

The author has gathered a great deal of material and tells of it attractively. There is no chapter without good matter. We destroy more coal in mining it than we get out, and our supply will be gone in 139 years. Our lumber will last, in commercial quantities, but 25 years. Our locomotives need three times as much coal to do a given task as English ones. Oil drillers are burning gas to get rid of it, in one case in Indiana fourteen wells burning for six months within a space of a few acres. Worst of all, 500,000 American workers are annually killed or crippled at their work by preventable accidents.

But when the author adds that we are wasting 30,000,000 horse power in unused waterfalls she is using waste in another sense. The power is still there for the next generation. She has no protest for the water powers and other resources that are being stolen from the people by the few, that another generation may use only by permission of "owners" who have no equitable title. Nor can the statements of the book be all accepted. Kansas has not had its rainfall increased by tree and crop planting (p. 44). Dry farming is not merely deep plowing and packing under a pulverized surface (p. 38). The using, even to exhaustion, of resources like iron, lead, silver and petroleum, cannot be called waste (p. 300). Hilltops are not always the poorest land on the farm (p. 33). Nor is the land of valleys enriched by the wash from deforested hillsides (p. 32). It is not true that you can get twenty bushels of wheat from an acre of land with the same labor as twelve (p. 14). It is extravagant to say that hundreds of millions of arid acres have been or may be irrigated (p. 107). Such statements are too frequent.

MARK JEFFERSON.